

MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION **MTSC**

July 8, 2015
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present

Dr. Dan Blower, Chair
Tim Yungfer, Vice Chair
Fred Bueter
Sharon Conklin
Walter Heinritzi
Capt. Mike Krumm
Charles Moser
Tom O'Brien
Michael Prince
Robert Ramels

Commissioners Absent

Dave Goller

Guests

Al Newell, Center for Truck Safety
Michelle Zemla, Center for Truck Safety
Chuck Simmons, Center for Truck Safety
John Wallace, FMCSA
Lt. Susan Fries, MSP CVED
Don Wilcutt, Brenner Oil
Jan Ramels
Kim Lariviere, MDOT

OHSP Staff

Kathy Farnum
Janet Hengesbach
Charlotte Kilvington
Heidi Ruis
Spencer Simmons

ROLL CALL

The Michigan Truck Safety Commission meeting was called to order by Dr. Dan Blower, Chair, at 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Self-introductions were made of those present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** to accept the May 13, 2015 minutes was made by Mr. Yungfer and supported by Captain Krumm. The **MOTION** carries.

STANDING REPORTS

A. Chair's Report – Dr. Dan Blower

Dr. Blower brought up the Truck, Size and Weight study. He indicated that it was just released in June, but needs to review the report in more detail. At first glance, however, he feels the report is disappointing as no real conclusions could be drawn. Some findings of note were a profound absence of weight data and crash reporting, accounting of violations of citations by truck configuration, lack of acceptable models to predict bridge deck deterioration over time, etc. The report also noted that it cannot predict national impacts. Dr. Blower will discuss the findings in more depth at the next meeting.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Capt. Mike Krumm – Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division has received approval to run a recruit school this October. It will have 18 recruits. Lt. Tom Kinney from First District is retiring and Lt. Steve Pascoe will assume command.

Walt Heinritzi – Michigan Trucking Association

No Report

Mike Prince – Office of Highway Safety Planning

The July Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over enforcement runs until July 12. Recently, OHSP hosted a UP Road Officers Conference at NMU for approximately 200 law enforcement. Some topics included Drug Trends and underage drinking. ARIDE training was held recently with 100 law enforcement officers. It was very well received.

Bob Ramels - General Public

No Report

Sharon Conklin – Private Motor Carriers

The West Michigan Safety Directors are going to meet with UMTRI later today regarding truck driver training and what is needed in Michigan.

Chuck Moser – Transportation Commission

No Report

Tim Yungfer – General Public

No Report

Fred Bueter – Secretary of State

PA 11 recently passed and includes new federal requirements involving licensing of CMV drivers. Some other provisions were to update the software which includes CMV personal info and some new restriction codes. This will give the Department of State more data on CMV drivers.

Tom O'Brien – Community Colleges

No Report

B. Financial Report – Mr. Spencer Simmons

Mr. Simmons reviewed the most recent financial report ending May 31, 2015.

C. Enforcement Grant Activity Report – Lt. Susan Fries

Lieutenant Fries reported that Regular STET hours is showing increased activity as it does each summer. The 12 crash county enforcement is doing well. Analyzing data currently to see where patrols should be placed. The Drive to Zero (Toward Zero Death) objective began April 1, 2015 and is off to a great start. They are using 656 overtime hours which will increase over the July 4 holiday. They worked one operation on May 22 using the truck simulator. More of these events are planned for the future. The new CVIEW-Plus technology which is a 15-month objective has been delayed until 2016 as there are some problems with the vendor.

Dr. Blower inquired about the truck parking project on 1-94. Initial feedback from MDOT is that it is making a difference. It is an automated system which alerts truck drivers of the availability of parking at an upcoming truck stop. Hopefully police take in consideration the drivers who spend time looking for a place to park for a mandatory break. Is there less illegal parking now? No feedback yet on that aspect.

D. Education Grant Activity Report – Mr. Al Newell

Mr. Newell announced that MCTS has hired two new staff members. The UP office recently moved to Escanaba from Iron Mountain. The truck simulator has been to 12 events and have run around 590 people through the demo. Mr. Newell was approached by someone inquiring if there is a need to have an office in SE Michigan. He reviewed the cost of running/maintaining an office in that location. Half of the CMV drivers polled indicate there is a need to have a presence in SE Michigan. He also spoke of their recent ad campaign running in two Lansing movie theatres. For a 10-week period, there are commercials running which shows safety round large trucks. The cost for this blitz is under \$6,000.00.

ACTION ITEMS

None

PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

- A. Michigan Summer of Safety: Ms. Kilvington explained the recent OHSP initiative, Michigan Summer of Safety. OHSP is working with other state departments on this effort. It emphasizes safety in all aspects of life including biking, water sports, driving, etc. Banners and other assets are available for displays.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. MCDD Update: Mr. O'Brien reminded the members that the skid pad will close July 31. A new location has not been determined. Mr. Heinritzi expressed that it is an excellent program and deserves support and funding. The Trucking Association members are upset that it is closing and are willing to assist in seeking a facility, develop it, and operate it. He also explained that he cannot put the association under a financial burden, however. They will assist with some type of investment.

There is no good resource that can be developed at this time. The Ingham County fairgrounds are still available if they want to look at that. Officials there have a site which can be developed and will give free rein to develop.

Dr. Blower would like to visit the fairgrounds and see what they have to offer. Mr. Ramels will go also. Mr. O'Brien will arrange for a visit for anyone else who is interested.

This has to be a careful decision for the future. There are legal considerations, infrastructure, cost factors, etc. An RFP is going out soliciting proposals to construct, maintain and instruct classes at a new venue. Results of that RFP will be reported at a MTSC meeting in the future months.

- B. MCTS Budget/Programs for FY 16 and beyond: Dr. Blower reviewed the revenue recently and since there is an existing fund balance, this would give an opportunity to do more to promote truck safety. The largest factor currently is the MCDD closing. An RFP is out to seek proposals for a new venue. Another project on the horizon is to research CMV drivers to see what kinds of training they would like to have in the future and if the skid pad provides the training they need.

Dr. Blower expressed interest in having someone who would take the momentum of each meeting and keep it going by taking ideas and initiatives and researching them for the next meeting. Mr. Prince explained there are positions like this at OHSP for federally funded traffic safety programming which serve as program coordinators. He could offer a sample position description for the Commission to review and then it would be a matter of finding a host entity for that grant. This idea will be further discussed during the September MTSC meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Captain Krumm reported he will be doing a presentation at the MTA conference the end of August.

Mr. Prince reminded all that the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit is scheduled for March 22-24, 2016 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Agenda topic suggestions are due September 18.

He also reminded the commissioners that the next commission meeting in September will have grant Approvals so it is important to have a quorum.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the MTSC is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.